

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hitch cover assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a hitch tube for connection to vehicle structure of a
5 vehicle;

a cover member extending transversely along the
vehicle and having a first aperture extending therethrough to
expose said hitch tube;

a hitch insert having a second aperture extending
10 longitudinally therethrough to fit over said hitch tube; and

a door pivotally connected to said hitch insert for
closing and opening said second aperture; and

an electrically controlled locking mechanism to
removably lock said hitch insert to said hitch tube.

15

2. A hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 1
wherein said electronically controlled locking pin mechanism
comprises a locking pin and an actuator operatively connected
to said locking pin.

20

3. A hitch cover assembly comprising:

a hitch insert having an aperture extending
longitudinally therethrough to fit over a hitch tube of a hitch
on a vehicle;

a rotatable door connected to said hitch insert for closing and opening said aperture; and

an electrically controlled locking pin mechanism adapted to extend through the hitch tube and said hitch insert.

5

4. A hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 3 wherein said electrically controlled locking pin mechanism comprises a locking pin.

10

5. A hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 4 wherein said electrically controlled locking pin mechanism includes an actuator operatively connected to said locking pin.

15

6. A hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said electrically controlled locking pin mechanism includes a switch operatively connected to said actuator and located in an interior of the vehicle.

20

7. A hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said electrically controlled locking pin mechanism includes a switch operatively connected to said actuator and located near said actuator.

8. A hitch cover assembly for a motor vehicle comprising:

a hitch insert having an aperture extending longitudinally therethrough to fit over a hitch tube of a trailer hitch on a motor vehicle;

a top cover plate mounted to said hitch insert;

a front cover plate mounted to said hitch insert and having an aperture extending therethrough aligned with the hitch tube of the trailer hitch; and

a rear guard fixedly attached to the motor vehicle, wherein said rear guard includes a plurality of tubular members.

9. A hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 8 including a hingeable member connected to said tubular members.

10. A hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein said hingeable member includes a rotatable upper arm and a fixed lower arm.

20

11. A hitch cover assembly for a motor vehicle comprising:

a hitch insert having an aperture extending longitudinally therethrough to fit over a hitch tube of a hitch on a motor vehicle;

5 a cover mounted to said hitch insert and having an aperture extending therethrough aligned with the hitch tube of the hitch;

a step extending longitudinally and perpendicular to said cover; and

10 a step support, wherein said step support extends transversely and generally forwardly from said hitch insert and includes a brace extending between said step support and said hitch insert, wherein said step support and said hitch insert are integral and one-piece.

15 12. A hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 11 including an electrically controlled locking pin mechanism adapted to extend through the hitch tube and said hitch insert.

20 13. A hitch cover assembly for a motor vehicle comprising:

a hitch insert having an aperture extending longitudinally therethrough to fit over a hitch tube of a hitch on a motor vehicle;

a cover mounted to said hitch insert and having an aperture extending therethrough aligned with the hitch tube of the hitch, wherein said cover includes a recess for storage;

a step extending longitudinally and perpendicular to
5 said cover; and

a step support, wherein said step support extends transversely and generally forwardly from said hitch insert and includes a brace extending between said step support and said hitch insert, and said step support and said hitch insert are
10 integral and one-piece.

14. A trailer hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 13 including a hingeable cover member to cover storage recess.

15

15. A trailer hitch cover assembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said cover member includes a locking mechanism.

20